recognized by the State Governments are not given preference in the matter;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a discrimination in this regard; and

(c) whether Government intends to take measures to remove this type of discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) As per the extant guidelines, there is 2% reservation under 'Freedom Fighter' category for allotment of Retail Outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships. Persons applying for dealerships/distributorships under this category should produce a certificate or Tamrapatra or an attested copy of the pension order issued by the Accountant General in pursuance of the sanction letter from Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India of their having been Freedom Fighter

Crisis of LPG in Assam

70. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the action proposed by Government to arrest the crisis of LPG in Assam; and

(b) whether there is any new proposal to increase the LPG distribution Centre in the said State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including the State of Assam and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 143.36 TMT (Thousand metric tonnes) of domestic LPG in the State of Assam during the period—April, 2007-January, 2008 as against 135.02 TMT during the corresponding period of last year. OMCs have not reported any backlog at present in supply of domestic LPG in the State of Assam.

(b) Government have given freedom to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining independent distributorships. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized 33 locations in the State of Assam for setting up LPG distributorships. The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying of a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances.

Supply of gas from KG basin to Maharashtra

71. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has sought the Ministry's intervention for allocation of gas from Reliance Industries KG-basin pipeline for a proposed 1,040 MW extension of Maha Genco's Uran Plant;